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UNCLAS COLOMBO 000092

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E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: GLOBE (Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment) Program Update: Sri Lanka and Maldives

REF: State 06351

1. Below is the GLOBE program update for Sri Lanka and Maldives:

Sri Lanka

2. Post is pleased to report the implementation of the GLOBE program in Sri Lanka. The Ministry of Human Resource Development, Education and Culture (MHREC) conducted the first three GLOBE teacher-training programs in late 2002. Econ Officer and USAEP director attended the inaugural training workshop and formally presented training kits to attendees. As of early January 2003, 42 secondary school teachers have been trained in GLOBE protocols and computer use. In addition, GLOBE clubs have been formed in about 30 schools. The GLOBE program is now being implemented in these schools.

3. Although Sri Lanka signed the GLOBE agreement in December 1999 and 4 trainers attended an international workshop, actual implementation of the program was delayed for several years due to government budgetary constraints. In 2002, Post provided a \$20,000 (Rs 2.18 million) grant to the Sri Lanka GLOBE program from funds available under an earlier PL416(B) food aid grant. MHREC is utilizing these funds for conducting teacher-training workshops. In addition, a recent USAEP grant enabled an officer in charge of the GLOBE program at MHREC to attend this month's training workshop in New Zealand. Her attendance is expected to give a further boost to the implementation of the program in Sri Lanka. Post will continue to support GLOBE through USAEP assistance and informal supervision and guidance.

Maldives

4. The Government of Maldives notified Post in 2002 that it is ready to sign the GLOBE agreement. Once the amended agreement, changing the US party from NOAA to NASA, is approved, Post expects to begin arrangements for a signing ceremony with the Maldivian government.

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